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 BAPTISTS

Musicians gather for training, fellowship

By Tony Martin
 Associate Editor

For the 29th consecutive year, church musicians from around the state enjoyed training, inspiration, and fellowship with their peers at the Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference. The conference convened February 1-3 at Brandon Church, Brandon, where ninety-plus dues paying members attended — but where significant other events such as the Thursday evening concert attracted several hundred more participants.

"The main purpose is to bring together church musicians from the state, from the minister of music angle, the state angle, the denominational angle, the student angle. We have several students participate from our Baptist colleges," said L. Graham Smith, of Church Music Director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"We had leaders like Slater Murphy (Fairview Church, Columbus) and Lavon Gray (First Church, Jackson) along with others who gave some direction on how to do big productions. We had others who gave direction to youth choirs. We read through new anthems," Smith said.

"Of course, the fellowship aspect is very important, and our time for worship together is always important and a special time," he added.



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT — Mary McDonald, a composer and publisher with Monarch Music in Knoxville, Tennessee, leads Mississippi Baptist musicians in a reading session of new church music during the 2007 Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference at First Church, Brandon. (Photo by Tony Martin)

Donations for Memorial



Workers from Loomis Fargo armored truck company and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board unload \$15,000 in donated pennies for the Memorial to the Missing located outside the Baptist Building in downtown Jackson. The Memorial is designed to hold 50 million pennies — one for each baby missing since the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 legalization of abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy. Individuals and churches can continue to contribute to the Memorial, and the contributions need not be in pennies. Donations in the forms of checks and cash will be converted to pennies and placed in the Memorial. To date, the Memorial is more than halfway to its goal, the proceeds of which will ultimately be used 100% for pro-life causes in Mississippi. For more information, visit www.mbc.org. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

After registration opened on Thursday, the Mississippi Baptist Singing Churchmen and the Churchmen Handbells rehearsed. After the break and welcome, the opening session was led by Jamie Meadors, chairman of the Music Department at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton. One of the highlights of the event was the evening concert, which included worship led by the Singing Churchmen, the Churchmen Handbells, the Churchmen Brass, and guest artist Mary McDonald.

McDonald, who is a composer and publisher for Monarch Music in Knoxville, Tennessee, was a rare treat. "She is a great lady," said Smith. "She does concerts on both organ and piano, and accompanies the Tennessee Singing Churchmen. She is just one of those who enjoys praising the Lord. We were doing three or four of her numbers, and we asked her to lead them during our rehearsals. She exudes a God-given enthusiasm for all she does."

The Mississippi College Singers also performed in concert. Breakout sessions included the aforementioned classes on major productions; a session on media in worship led by Ian Richardson, MBCB director of communication services; and a session for accompanists led by McDonald. Another feature was reading sessions led by McDonald, during which the participants were able to preview new anthems for choir. McDonald also led a session on trends in church music from a composer's/publisher's view.

"We invite bivocational music ministers to come for the Friday evening banquet and the Saturday morning sessions," said Smith. "We know they might have difficulty coming during the other sessions. We have a special clinic for them Saturday morning, and we use one of our own who especially understands bivocational work and can communicate the basics that will help them become more effective."

The conference attracts a wide cross-section of attendees. "We have a few large churches that participate, but most of those who come are from churches in the four to seven hundred range, although there are many from much smaller churches," Smith said.

We have a unique fellowship in the music area, in that we've tried to make everyone feel welcome without relation to the size of church. We are here to help and resource one another. We try to get our members to mentor and develop long-time relationships with our younger members. Together we can build up the Body, and the work will go on after some of us have passed from the scene. The Lord has blessed us in our efforts to be inclusive," he said.

The Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference is funded by dues and by the Mississippi Cooperative Program. For more information, contact Smith at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3276 or toll free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 276. Email: gsmith@mbcb.org.



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Miss. Baptists, fighting the good fight

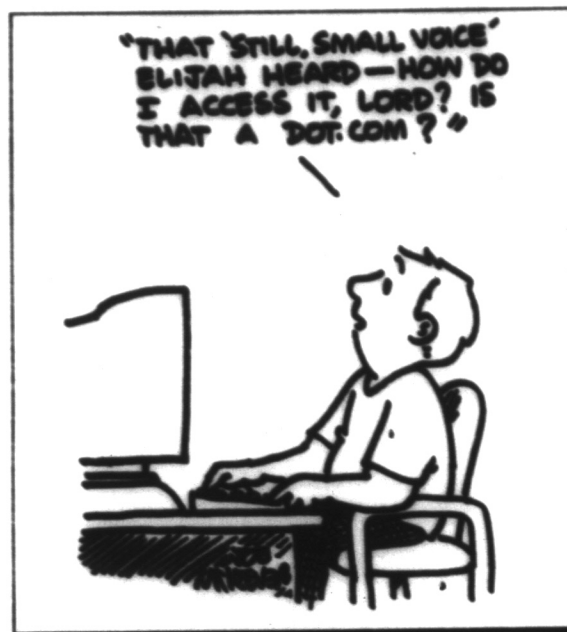
Three important proposals dealing with abortion law in Mississippi are currently in the meatgrinder of legislative politics and deserve our full attention. Since the 2007 session of the Mississippi Legislature started in early January, the Senate has managed to pass the trio of bills and send them to the House of Representatives. The three bills are:

- **SB 2795**, which would outlaw abortion in Mississippi except under certain highly-restricted circumstances. The bill's principal author is Alan Nunnelee, a member of Calvary Church, Tupelo, who represents Senate District 6.

- **SB 2801**, which would mandate that mothers considering abortion be given the opportunity to view a sonogram of their developing baby and/or hear the baby's beating heart. Nunnelee is also the principal author of this bill.

- **SB 2391**, which would set forth a formal legal procedure to be followed if a minor child sought a court waiver of parental consent to receive an abortion. This bill's principal author is Joey Fillingane, a member of Oral Church, Sumrall, who represents Senate District 41.

We should be thankful that these Mississippi Baptists — and many more just like them — are leading the fight against the abortion holocaust in Mississippi. Perhaps their actions and our full support



of those actions will have a national impact. At some point this year, the gruesome milestone will be reached of 50 million babies aborted since the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion in all 50 states through all nine months of pregnancy.

The three bills have met with early difficulties in the House of Representatives, however. Steve Holland of Plantersville, who represents House District 16 and is chairman of the Public Health and Human Services Committee, has publicly indicated that he is not inclined to bring the bills before the committee during this session.

Under the House's committee system, that would mean the bills can go no further toward passage into law. A group of House members — once again with many

Mississippi Baptists in the leadership — is trying to ensure that doesn't happen.

The Mississippi House Republican Conference (MHRC) has sent a plea to House Speaker Bill McCoy, a member of Gaston Church, Booneville, and a strong pro-life supporter, to "allow all House members to have a voice in deciding whether these bills should become law."

"The Republican Conference unanimously supports what these bills hope to accomplish," MHRC Chair Phillip Gunn, a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, who represents House District 56, told The Baptist Record. "We believe in the sanctity of human life. We believe that abortion violates the sanctity of human life. We are proud to lead the effort to pass these bills."

"All 47 Republican members of the House have requested Speaker McCoy to urge Chairman Holland not to kill the pro-life bills in committee, but to allow a floor vote on all three measures," said Assistant Republican Leader Greg Snowden, a member of First Church, Meridian, who represents House District 83. "The Speaker is a prayerful man with a good pro-life record, and we hope and expect him to use his considerable influence to make sure that on sanctity of life issues, principle will always prevail over partisan politics."

As simple and straightforward as are these three bills, it's going to take a lot of work to get them to the House floor for consideration by all representatives. Many Mississippi Baptist legislators are striving to make that happen, and they are not alone. At this critical juncture in the life cycles of the bills, they need to know that. They need our support and prayers — but above all, our prayers.

What is the role of religion in the public square? Some would call for a Christian theocracy; others would suggest a completely religion-free public square.

Are these the only options: either a public square dominated by religion or a public square devoid of spiritual import? These questions are important, especially when it appears that Christianity is on the defensive in favor of a secularized public square. To answer this question we must revisit some American history.

In a letter to the Danbury Baptist Association of Connecticut dated Jan. 1, 1802, President Thomas Jefferson opined on the non-establishment clause of the First Amendment, arguing for "building a wall of separation between Church and State."

Jefferson's "wall of separation" was used to assure the Baptists that he opposed a state-sanctioned church, arguing that "religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only and not opinions."

The phrase was used by Chief Justice Morrison Waite in 1879 and again by Justice Hugo Black in 1947. Thus, the phrase "wall of separation" settled into the American conscience.

GUEST OPINION:



Religion in the public square

By Kevin Shrum, pastor
Inglewood Church, Nashville

What are we to make of this phrase?

First, the phrase is not in the Constitution. The First Amendment reads, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." At minimum, this means two things. The state will not establish a state church and the state will not interfere with religious practices.

Secondly, some argue that this phrase excludes all religious expressions from the public square — but does it? Jefferson argued that the First Amendment guaranteed freedom for religion as a moral dimension of a democratically governed people. He also argued for the freedom of religion in that each person was free to worship or not worship according to the dictates of his own conscience.

America is a constitutional, representative republic. A

Christian theocracy is not an option any more than would be a state run by Mormons, Muslims, or Buddhists. While there is freedom for and of religion, it must be acknowledged that though America's founding documents are not explicitly Christian, the founding spirit of this nation was consistently Judeo-Christian. It has been the favored religion of this nation, which is no small admission.

This does not exclude expressions of religious convictions by non-Christians. It simply acknowledges that the Judeo-Christian worldview has been firmly ensconced in American public life, which has served us well since our inception.

Therefore, to answer the question, "What is the role of religion in the public square?" is to ask the question, "Can I separate my private convictions from my public opinions?" Since my answer to the

latter is no, my answer to the former is that I come to the community table as a convictional Christian. It is there in community meetings and in public gatherings that I express my religiously informed convictions with clarity, conciseness and humility, as would any citizen of any religious stripe.

To do otherwise would violate my conscience. I cannot check who I am at the door of public involvement.

To quarantine the public square from religious conviction is to leave her bare, devoid of any moral and spiritual influence. Such a move would supplant America's spiritual and moral roots, a development that would in the end neutralize moral conviction and rob us of our grand constitutional and declared affirmations: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by the Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness... and for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor."

Shrum's commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

Workplace ministries fertile field in U.S.

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Ministry in the workplace is prevalent throughout the Bible. The term "work" is mentioned more than 800 times and the Hebrew word "avodah" is the root from which we get the words "work" and "worship."

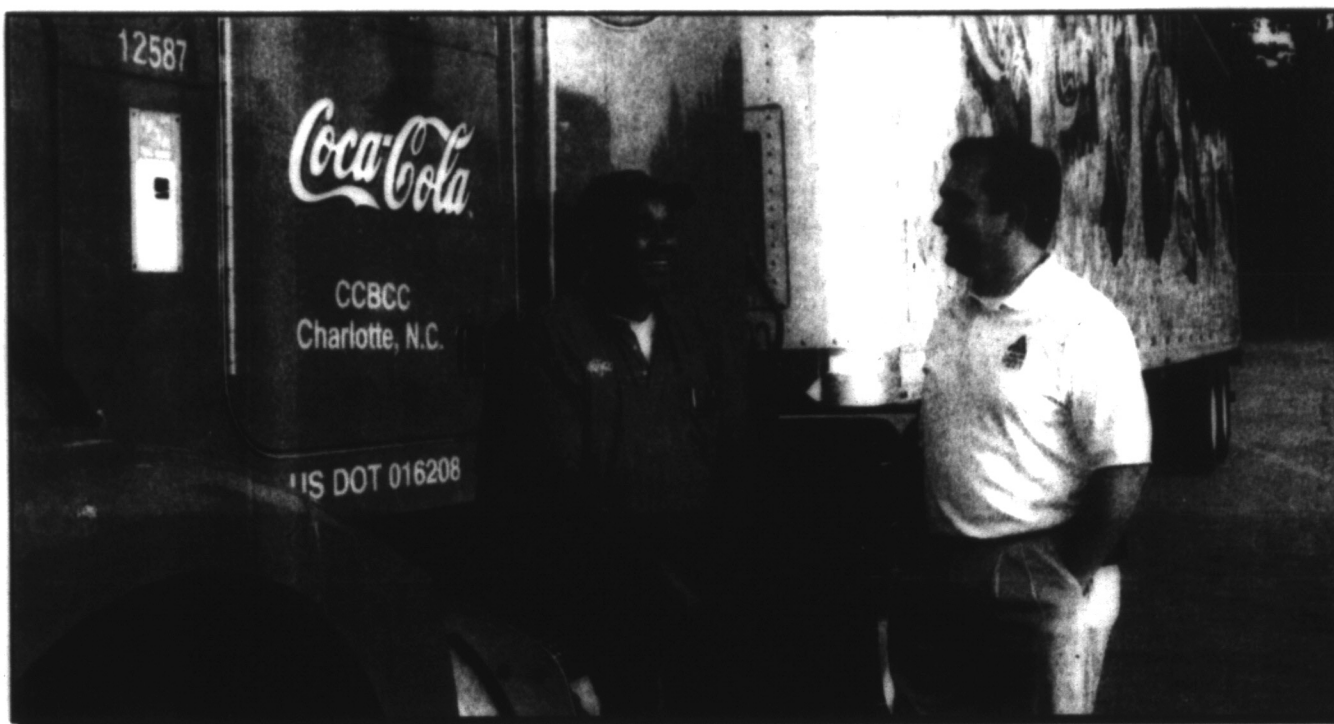
Forty-five of Jesus' 52 parables were about work, while 39 of 40 divine encounters in the Book of Acts occurred in workplace settings.

The workplace, whether out of the home or in the home, is a mission field, and many pastors tell their church members to go out and reach it — but according to those who specifically serve in workplace/work-life ministries, people are not getting the proper training on how to reach the workplace.

That's why organizations like HisChurchatWork.org and Corporate Chaplains of America were formed. That's why the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and other ministries are concentrating on ministering to the workplace.

These and other organizations are either helping churches train the masses to go out and be workplace missionaries or are actually sending out people into the workplace to minister. Henry Blackaby, founder of Blackaby Ministries International, for example, provides monthly conference calls and training sessions to corporate CEOs to help them learn to bring Christ into their corporate lives.

"People are happy in the pews letting 'professionals' do this," said Doug Spada, a Navy veteran in nuclear engineering who started HisChurchatWork.org in 2002 at Journey Community Church in San Diego and now is based in Alpharetta, Ga.



WORKPLACE MINISTRY — A visit between a Coca-Cola driver and a chaplain affiliated with Corporate Chaplains of America reflect the ever-expanding workplace ministry movement. (BP photo)

"We need to shift from going to church to being the church."

Spada was a successful entrepreneur in Southern California and started Utili-Tech, Inc., an energy and utility services firm that worked with companies like ARCO, Texaco and Exxon. However, despite his business success, Spada said he became "spiritually burdened for people's work lives" and prayed to God for guidance in using his talents in ministry.

Journey Community Church allowed Spada to start a pioneering church-based worklife ministry based solely on biblical principles drawn from such passages as Ephesians 4:11-12. From that, HisChurchatWork.org was formed.

"Why did I do this? It was me being obedient," Spada said. "I

was privately discouraged, disconnected, disillusioned in the area of my greatest influence.

"Churches think programmatically. They spend millions of dollars on programs and then people get saved when the pastor preaches. Pastors say God called him to the ministry. What about the people in the pew? What are they called to do? We help churches build bridges where walls and gaps existed.

"Our mission is to make sure every church leader wrestles with this. We teach churches how to sustain efforts to disciple the scattered church, whether it's the bus driver, teacher, engineer or stay-at-home mom. We define work as what God defines it, which is the essence of work, not just a place you go."

Spada works with churches to provide training in worklife ministry through a program he calls Worklife University, encompassing 30 modules of training. He provides support staff and also links and resources for the church's website in order to "train the trainers" and help the

church fulfill its greatest impact during the week.

"They then train the layperson to lead the ministry," Spada said. "It's important to have someone in the workplace ... the typical paradigm. What we've done is help the church take its rightful and biblical position in the workplace.

"There's a significant amount of influence in the workplace and the church has been vacant from that. People need to realize that we are all in ministry."

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association started looking several years ago at the impact of evangelism training in the workplace, said Jack Munday, who oversees workplace ministry at the Billy Graham Training Center near Asheville, N.C. The training center started the Christian Executive Leadership Forum in 2003 which works with business leaders on biblical leadership in business.

"The first century church started in the workplace," Munday said.

Same-sex bills gaining

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — After suffering a series of stinging defeats last year, homosexual activists may be on the verge of significant victories this year as state legislatures consider passing same-sex civil unions bills. Legislators in at least four states — Hawaii, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Rhode Island — are examining civil unions bills that would grant homosexual couples the legal benefits of marriage. A fifth state, Washington, is considering a domestic partnership benefits bill that would give same-sex couples some of marriage's legal benefits. In all five states, supporters believe they have a good chance at success. Homosexual activists see civil unions as the next-best thing to full-blown homosexual marriage, as well as a natural stepping stone to "marriage." Some legislators see civil unions as a compromise. Pro-family leaders, though, disagree. "We think civil unions as they are proposed here in Hawaii are exactly the same as marriage, but with a different title," Hawaii Family Forum Executive Director Kelly Rosati told Baptist Press. "So, we don't see it as much of a compromise." Last year, supreme courts in New York, Washington state, and New Jersey ruled there was no constitutional right to homosexual marriage. Although it was a banner year for conservatives, the pendulum could be swinging back in the other direction. Maryland's highest court could issue a homosexual marriage decision any day. California's top court will hear such a case this year, and Connecticut's highest court could as well. Civil unions are legal in three states: Vermont, Connecticut and New Jersey. For more information about the national debate over homosexual marriage, visit <http://www.bpnews.net/samesexmarriage>.

Looking back

10 years ago

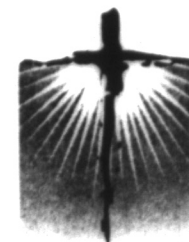
Executives and trustees of the Baptist Sunday School Board agree that the name of the 106-year-old agency needs to be changed to better reflect its vision and diversity of ministries. No new name has yet been suggested.

20 years ago

The Baptist Children's Village adds a residential ministry for adolescent girls who become pregnant out of wedlock. The new project is being started in cooperation with the Mississippi Children's Home Society of Jackson, a licensed child-placement and adoption agency.

60 years ago

R.H. Holcomb, pastor of First Church, Tupelo, retires after serving the church for 28 years. The church membership grew from 1,300 to 2,300 during his tenure.



MISSISSIPPI
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THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eternal
death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose
from the grave to forgive my
sins and to restore my rela-
tionship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a lov-
ing relationship with Him. (I
receive Christ as my Savior
and Lord.)

"But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to become
children of God, even to those who
believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
local Baptist church for spiritu-
al guidance.

FANCY FOLLOWING JESUS

The church has always had to be vigilant and keep an eye on the encroachment of the culture into the Kingdom of God. Sometimes it is very subtle and other times it is an all-out, headlong, frontal attack to try to alter the work of God to be exactly like the culture in which it is found. Amazingly, from the first century until now our life, society, and cultural emphasis have shifted and changed but the church has remained focused on the supremacy of the living Lord Jesus Christ who alone can save a soul and make a difference in us as we seek to make a difference in our world.

Recently, in our sports-crazed society there have been some interesting things that have happened that make you scratch your head and wonder what has happened to the quality of virtue among people. A high-profile, nationally known football coach declares that he is not going to leave his place of service and go to a large university only to have the announcement made a few days later that he will be leaving and starting his work at that school. For days, in fact for weeks people talked about how he misrepresented what he was going to do and questioned his loyalty and his trustworthiness. The fact is that there are a lot of different interpretations of what actually took place, and he was not the first and no doubt will not be the last to handle the situation the way that he did.

Following on the heels of that came the recruiting wars that take place to entice, recruit, and enroll young high school athletes to come and play sports at their institution. It happens every year, but it seems to have happened more this year. Many of these young students gave a verbal commitment that they were going to one school and when the day for signing came they changed and signed with someone else. They certainly have the prerog-



Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Directions

ative to do that, and it also must be kept in mind that these are 17-, 18-, and 19-year old kids who are trying to find out where they are going in their future. They are being influenced by coaches, parents, friends, former players, and who knows who else. They are making decisions that will literally affect them the rest of their lives. How do you filter out all of that stuff? Still they made a commitment only to turn around and change the direction they were going.

Now my point is not to pick on these kids or even to be derogatory toward a coach, but to say that our world is laden with this kind of thought process and lack of integrity in what we say. Rick Cleveland, a sports writer for The Clarion Ledger newspaper in Jackson, had an interesting and insightful article concerning the recruiting wars and what had taken place as kids change their loyalty. While they had made a verbal commitment, which is non-binding, only to make a recruiting choice and sign a letter of intent which is binding, Cleveland points out that they still had made promises and they still expressed oral commitments of what they were going to do. He suggested that we change the wording of how we talk about what these kids are doing as they look for the school for which they are going to play sports and attend. His suggestion is that after a young man visits a school, talks to the coaches, and sees the facilities that he simply say something to the effect that he "fancies" the school. He still

is going to look around and still keep his options open, but he fancies the possibility of playing ball at a certain university. This way there is no oral commitment and no total promise. He still can shift around and go in any direction he wants. That is probably not a bad thing, and Cleveland is probably right on target.

My problem is that this kind of thinking might bleed into the church, and my bigger concern is that it already has become a part of our thought process in following Jesus. How many times has someone said, "I am giving my life to Christ," and then a day, or two, or three later is involved in actions, activities, and attitudes that are totally the opposite of their Sunday morning promise? It is almost as if we hear the Gospel in a stirring sermon that reaches out and grabs our heart and we say, "He deserves my all," only to turn around and as the days unfold explain that He gets everything but certain areas of life and purpose.

Tragically, when it comes to the Kingdom of God it is not just because of age or youth that people have a fancy about following Christ and doing the will of God, but it seems to be as prevalent by middle and older adults as it does among young people. Jesus never called us to simply come to an emotional moment and fancy following Him, but He issued to us a total, unreserved life-altering commitment. To the believer it is to be verbal, visible, and unchanging. In Jesus' earthly ministry there were always those people who were coming around oftentimes on the periphery and at other times up close and personal who were intrigued with various aspects of His life and work.

Thousands were intrigued by the miracles and many were captivated by His teachings. They followed Him, listened to Him, watched Him, and sometimes became so up close and personal that He could not even find any time to rest or be rejuvenated. They wanted to hear His lecture, and they did not want to miss His next healing, but when He demanded from them a total commitment and a promise that would not be broken, many of them would scurry away into the shadows of the villages through which He walked. They fancied following Jesus, but they did not want to cross the line and sign their heart away to Him.

Once when the crowds had been so huge and Jesus challenged them to give everything, they all left and Jesus turned to His disciples and said, "Will you go away also?" Many of us fancy following Jesus as long as the temperature is right, the music fits our taste, the program is one that we think we might enjoy, and the requirements of time, energy, and resources are not too stringent. All of that is to say that we fancy following Jesus, as long as step-by-step and day-by-day we can decide if we like the requirements or not. If it does not suit our spiritual taste buds, we join with those who just quietly disappear. Even though we may rationalize or justify our actions, we pretty much demonstrate the type of commitment — or lack of commitment — that we actually have.

Jesus never invited us to come and follow Him on an easy road to good-time experiences, but He did invite us to make a commitment to Him and follow Him to incredible experiences of seeing God at work in us, through us, and for us. If you just fancy following Jesus, you miss it! If you sign on with Him for the entire journey, you will be glad you did because you will see Him do mighty things, bring great joy in the celebration, and infuse your life with great strength in the difficult times. Jesus made the commitment for us, and He is deserving of our commitment to Him.

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churches and over 70,000 members.
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Deadline for receiving resumes is
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, PLANTERSVILLE,
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or individuals to fill the following posi-
tions: minister of music and minister of
youth. Any one that is interested, please
send resume to Immanuel Baptist
Church, attention personnel committee,
6949 Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS
39180. Or contact Marshall Thomas at
(601) 619-4905 or (601) 218-0392.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 22, 2007

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

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CONFERENCE

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Minister of music
Monticello Baptist Church
Monticello, Miss.

JIM FUTRAL

Executive director-treasurer
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Jackson, Miss.

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Saturday, March 31

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10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Cost \$5 (includes lunch)

(Mail your check by Monday, March 26, to X-Tended
Missions Network Association, P.O. Box 381
Hernando, MS 38632.

For more information call 662.429.5033

▪ Refreshments ▪ Fun

▪ Door Prizes ▪ Praise Team

Sponsored by: X-Tended Missions Network and MBCB

STATE BIBLE DRILLS 2007

DATE	LOCATION	REGISTRATION	DRILLS BEGIN
TUESDAY	Picayune, FBC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
April 10	Batesville, FBC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
THURSDAY	Brookhaven, FBC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
April 12	Grenada, Emmanuel BC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
FRIDAY	Hattiesburg, Main Street BC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
April 13	Meridian, Poplar Springs Dr. BC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
SATURDAY	Madison, FBC	9-noon	9:30 a.m.
April 14	Pearl, McLaurin Heights BC	9-noon	9:30 a.m.
MONDAY	Tupelo, FBC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
April 16	Tupelo, Harrisburg BC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
TUESDAY	Starkville, FBC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
April 17			
THURSDAY	Laurel, Salem Heights BC	2-4:30 p.m.	2:30 p.m.
April 19			
SATURDAY	Selection Tournaments		
April 21	Clinton, FBC (times inside)		

Call your Baptist Associational office for the date and location
for your Associational Drill. The church and associational paks
were mailed the first of February to every church and association
requesting Bible Drill information for 2007.

DISCIPLESHIP & FAMILY MINISTRY DEPARTMENT

(601) 292-3284 or 1-800-748-1651

E-mail: dhicks@mbcb.org

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ACTEENS
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MAC ... March 30 – April 1, 2007
Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain

Cost: \$25

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Preregistration is required. The deadline is March 15, 2007.

Lodging Options:

- BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE GYM, for a cost of \$12 per person, limited to the first 100 who register.
- FBC NEW ALBANY CAMP, limited to the first 50 who register.

This event is open to girls in grades 7-12 and their leaders. Membership of an Acteens group is not required to attend.

For more information, contact Alicia in the wMu, at 1-800-748-1651 ext. 316, or 601-292-3316.

El Companerisimo Hispano invita al III retiro de mujeres

THE HISPANIC FELLOWSHIP
and the MISSISSIPPI wMu

INVITE YOU TO THE 3RD ANNUAL HISPANIC WOMEN'S RETREAT

"Si has perdido la capacidad de soñar, hoy es el tiempo de recuperarlo, Cuéntaselo a Dios y cree que Él hará que tus sueños se hagan realidad"
"Cualquier cosa que ustedes pidan en mi nombre, yo la haré." Juan 14:13

"If you have lost your capacity to dream, today is the time to get it back, Tell God about it and believe that He will make your dreams a reality."
"And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father." John 14:13

Theme – "Dreams of a Woman" Tema – "Sueños de Mujer"

Conference leader Conferencista – **Elizabeth Rosales** – Guatemala/California
Music and Conference leader for teens – **Alabanzas Especiales Mariel Rosales**, Guatemala/California

Place – **Camp Garaywa** Lugar – **Camp. Garaywa**

Date – **March 16-17, 2007** Fecha – **Marzo 16-17, 2007**

Ages – **12 years and up** Edades – **12 en adelante**

Cost – **\$35 (12 and up) \$5 (children 0-5 years)**

Costo – **\$35 (12 hasta adultas), \$5 por niño (0-5 años)**

Note – bring sheets, pillow, personal items

Nota – Traer sábana (Twin), almohada, cobija

Deadline Date – **March 1, 2007**

Ultimo plazo para registrarse – **1 de Marzo**

Elizabeth
Rosales

Mariel
Rosales

For registration form and more information – www.mbc.org/events or
call Paula Smith 800-748-1651, ext. 336, psmith@mbcb.org

2007 VBS JUMPSTART

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This will be a VBS to remember!

The VBS sampler and curriculum will be on display and available for purchase from LifeWay Christian Resources.

FEBRUARY 5, 2007, 9-11 a.m.

First Baptist Church, Lyman
14321 Old Hwy 49, Gulfport

FEBRUARY 6, 2007, 6:30-9 p.m.

Longview Heights Baptist Church
4501 Goodman Road, Olive Branch

QUESTIONS?

Contact: Sunday School Department
601-292-3294, 1-800-748-1651 or
aboydstun@mbcb.org

FEBRUARY 6, 2007, 9 a.m.-noon

Liberty Baptist Church, Flowood
5199 Lakeland Drive

On Display at Liberty Baptist Church:

- Children's Crafts • Preschool Crafts
- Children's Snacks



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of Working Together



John Fisher, President
Robert Fisher, Senior Pastor
John Fisher, Jr., Director of
Sunday School

Sunday School Department, Oxford Baptist Church, Oxford
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

A Workshop for Pastors, Ministers of Education, Sunday School Directors

April 10

North Oxford Baptist Church, Oxford

April 11

Camp Garaywa, Clinton

April 12

Petal-Harvey Baptist Church, Petal



NE SINGLES RETREAT

APRIL 20 & 21

CAMP HOPEWELL, OXFORD

Cost: \$30

Speaker

Ray Prichard, President
Keepbelieving Ministries

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662-842-6917

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Worship Leader

Karen Fisk

Music Evangelist

Featuring

Drew Phillips

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Annual Missions Celebration
& wMu Associational Missions
Leadership Training

April 20-21, 2007

First Baptist Church, Madison

For more info, contact Mississippi wMu at
601-292-3319 or spruitt@mbcb.org.

Go to www.mbcb.org. Click on: Departments,
Mission Strategy, Woman's Missionary Union.



Church Facilities & Furnishings

March 20, 2007
8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Temple Baptist Church
West Campus
5220 Old Hwy. 11
Hattiesburg, MS

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For info: Keith Gordon or Kay McDonnell
MBCB Church Building Services, P.O. Box 730
Jackson, MS 39205-0730, Phone: 1-800-748-1631
or 601-292-3305 in Jackson

Pray this day for...

February 23 - March 9, 2007

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"O for a passion for souls. O for a pity that yearns! O for the love that loves until death. O for the fire that burns! O for the pure prayer power that prevails. That pours itself out for the lost! Victorious prayer in the Conqueror's Name. O for a Pentecost!"

Amy Carmichael

Thank you for praying for wisdom for Celtic Languages Team members David and Krista Ruark to follow God's direction concerning volunteer projects. Please continue to ask for guidance concerning the many projects available.

(1) North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (WNU Emphasis); (2) Pray for the small but growing evangelical church in Egypt to be a shining witness to the power, wisdom, mercy and love of God. Ask God to prepare the hearts of Egyptian Muslims to understand and believe in Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior and to be gathered unto multiplying New Testament churches.

Thank God for a family who was granted residency to and has now moved to Algeria. Pray that God will: (1) provide for their needs; (2) use them daily to build relationships that will lead to kingdom growth; (3) keep them well and strong; (4) make them a source of strength and encouragement to the other families already living and working in the country.

Mark Hasenyager, Huson, Mont., is the senior pastor of the Ourdoorsmen church. Praise God for the many unbelievers who are regularly attending church. Pray that hearts will be open to Christ, and that the church can find a permanent property on which to settle.

Steve Melvin of Rochester, Minn., is the director of church extension for the Minnesota Wisconsin Convention. Pray for existing churches, for new churches that need to be started, and for Steve as he encourages and challenges the church planters in their ministry settings.

Stacie Barker is a journeyman whose term of service has ended after being in Francistown, Botswana, for two years. Pray that God will give her direction as to what He wants her to do in the future. Lift up the youth that she has trained, asking that they will continue in what He has equipped them to grow in Christ and share Him with others.

Pray that missionaries, Nigerian Baptists and other denominations working with the Fulbe and Fulbe believers will all be faithful witnesses to the many Fulbe who do not know of God's gift of salvation through Jesus. Pray that these witnesses will be diligent in the work God has given them to do among the Fulbe.

Pray for missionary Kristi Erneish, who is partnering with a Baptist church in a children's outreach to the poor. Pray that Kristi will be able to help the women of the church with fresh and new ideas for outreach, as well as provide them with encouragement and excitement for this ministry.

(1) Family Ministry Summit, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (D&FM); (2) Despite the many successes in Bible Schools of Tanzania, there are fresh attacks from the enemy to weaken or destroy God's work. Pray for one school that is in need of stronger leadership. This school is in an area that is now having to stand on its own with national leadership.

(1) Professional Preschool/Children's Ministers Retreat, Camp Garaywa; (2) Pray for a national believer who is boldly sharing the gospel. He has been discipling his wife by teaching her stories from God's Word and they are now singing and praying together. Please pray for her and a few other women to be baptized soon.

(1) Christian Performing Arts Festival, Broadmoor BC, Madison, 23rd - 24th (D&FM); (2) In Chavin, Peru, there are now three new believers. Praise the Lord that He made a profession of faith. Pray for his wife, G, who has yet to make that decision. Also, ask the Lord to mold these new believers into a new church.

(1) GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (WNU); (2) "We covet your prayers for those who are close to becoming believers in Xiamen, China, and ask that they will be very sensitive to the working of the Holy Spirit in their hearts. Pray especially for two young women, S and A. They are very close to believing."

(1) State Keyboard Festival, Woodland Hills BC, Jackson (CM); (2) Young Ringers Festival, Camp Garaywa (CM); (3) Ask the Father to handpick new workers who have hearts to seek and serve the lost students and professionals in Moscow. May He give His guidance and wisdom during the time of transition.

(1) Christian Education Clinic, Ridgecrest BC, Madison (D&FM); (2) When J reached high school in South Korea, his extra time was consumed with studying for college entrance exams. He desired to be involved in ministry, but his family was determined to see him placed in the best university. Pray for J, and all Christian students living under great pressure for high academic achievement.

Growing Churches

Equipping the Body of Christ to Serve and Teach
"for the training of the saints in the work of ministry,
to build up the body of Christ..." Ephesians 4:12 (HCSB)

FBC, Tupelo

Friday & Saturday, July 27-28, 2007

Friday: Registration 4 - 7 p.m.

Saturday: Late Registration 8 a.m.

Conference 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

No child care on sight

Cost: \$5 per person

Send Registration to:

Lee County Baptist Association, PO Box 2640, Tupelo 38803

This conference will address topics for those working
or interested in the following areas:

Preschool	Children	Youth
College/Career	Singles	Adults
Senior Adults	Pastors	Women's Ministry
Men's Ministry	Deacons	Mission Trip Planning
Church Planting	International Ministries	Music/Worship
Sunday School	Discipleship	Evangelism
Wmu	Personal Enrichment	Bible Drill/Youth Speakers

For information, contact: Discipleship and Family Ministry Department,
1-800-748-1651, dhicks@mbcb.org, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Tuesday, March 13

Temple BC, Hattiesburg

(601) 736-2254

Tuesday, March 20

FBC, Cleveland

(662) 226-5316

Thursday, March 22

Colonial Heights BC, Ridgeland

(601) 956-5000

Monday, March 26

West Jackson Street BC, Tupelo

(662) 256-8778

Tuesday, April 3

Northcrest BC, Meridian

Buddy McElroy (Area F)

(601) 681-6615

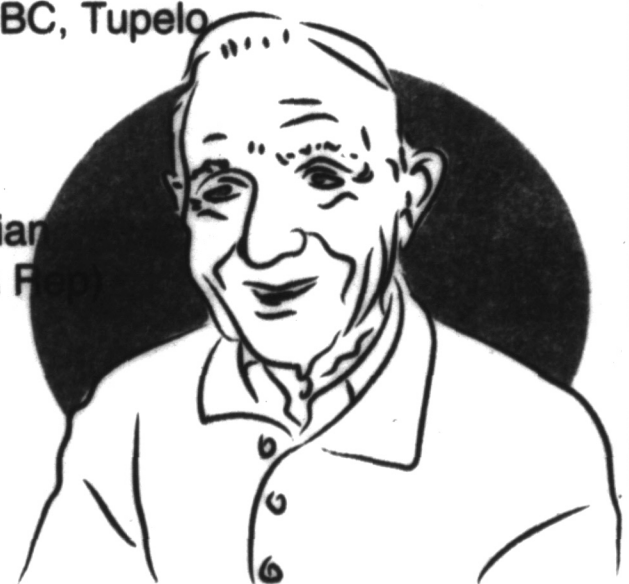
Thursday, April 19

FBC, Brookhaven

(601) 833-8111

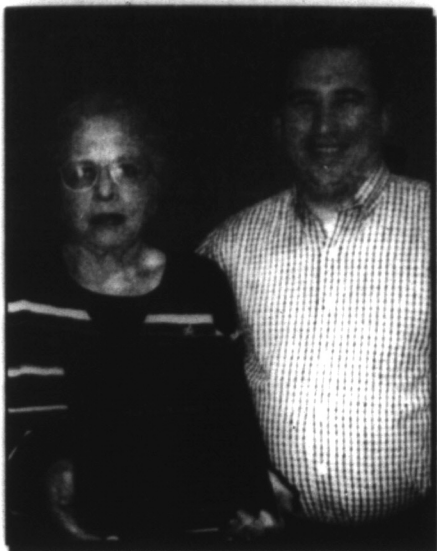
**Senior
Adult
Spring
Rallies**

More info
to follow



HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Bronson Honored, First Church, Terry

1. **First Church, Terry**, honored Maxcine Brunson with a retirement reception Jan. 21 after serving 20 years as church secretary. Brunson is shown with pastor John Pace.

2. **Dorsey Church, Dorsey**,

recently ordained Jerry Guntharp, George Allred, and Kevin Harmon as deacons. C. Danny Rushing, pastor.

3. **Trinity Church, Vicksburg**, recently installed one deacon, ordained one deacon, and ordained one to the ministry on Oct. 15, 2006. Doug Westmoreland is pastor. Shown pictured are Don Gould, installed deacon, Lonnie Hollowell, ordained deacon, and Douglas Thompson, ordained to the ministry.

4. **Gumpond Church, Lumberton**, recently ordained Jeff Easterling to the gospel ministry. Easterling is pastor of The Barn Church, Poplarville. Shown are Easterling, pastor Mark Longino, and Rachel Easterling.

5. **First Church, McLaurin, Hattiesburg**, exceeded their Lottie Moon



2. Deacon Ordinations, Dorsey Church, Dorsey

Christmas Offering goal of \$1000 by collecting \$1452.79, with the GAs collecting \$220 of that amount.

6. **Mt. Carmel Church, Edinburg**, is hosting the celebration choir of Leesburg Church for a concert Feb. 24, 6 p.m.

7. **Sunrise Church, Leake County**, will host a men's and boy's wild game supper Mar. 1, 6:30 p.m., with

Melvin Thingle, speaker. For more information call (601) 267-2225 or 267-4156.

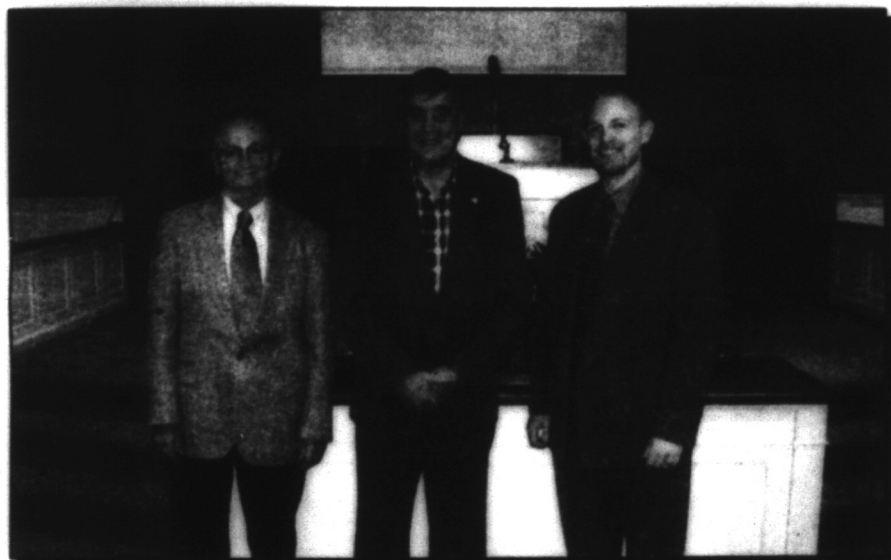
8. **Sand Hill Church, Ellisville**, exceeded their Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$3500 by giving \$4222.

9. **Maybank Church, Hattiesburg**, will host The Stamps in concert Mar. 3, 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken. For information, call (601) 268-2735.

10. **Park Haven Church, Laurel**, is hosting their 4th annual drive through crucifixion Mar. 30-31, 7:30-9 p.m.

11. **Highland Church, Natchez**, is hosting Ron Hughes, singer, songwriter, recording artist Mar. 7, 6:30 p.m.

12. **First Church, Byram**, is hosting The Stamps Quartet Mar. 4, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken.



3. Ordinations, Trinity Church, Vicksburg



4. Ordination, Gumpond Church, Lumberton

REVIVALS

Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, is hosting **People Get Ready**, Monday nights, Mar. 5-Apr. 2. Speakers include Bob Reccord, Mar. 5; Johnny Hunt, Mar. 12; Vance Pittman, Mar. 19; Tony Nolan, Mar. 26; and Bob Pittman, Apr. 2. Reccord will participate in a pastoral leadership breakfast Mar. 6, 8 a.m. For information or reservations for the breakfast, call (601) 833-2597 or visit www.easthaven.net.

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Camille Griffith
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601-825-5050



Gay Hudson
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662-342-2034



Sandra Little
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601-482-8109



Michele Renee Pearson
Meridian
601-482-8889



Lee A. Pagnan Jr.
Columbus
662-327-6896



Ed Perrett
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800-379-0882



James A. Rhoe
New Albany
662-534-2108



Perry Smith
Hattiesburg
601-268-1798



Talmadge L. Smith
Tupelo
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Eddie Sullivan
Tupelo
662-844-4065



Jon D. Sullivan
Tupelo
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Fred K. Watson
Tupelo
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Sharon B. Wood
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Dennis Barden
Sales Director
AL, LA, MS

Bibliocipher

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JXNIE GC QVX ASERJXA,
NVRV YXAREX QG NIDW
RH DGHU EGJXA, IHY
DGPX UEXXQRHUA RH
QVX FIEWXQA, IHY QVX
VRUVXAQ AXIQA RH
QVX AOHIUGUMXA, IHY
QVX SVRXC EGGFA IQ
CXIAQA.

DMWX QNXHQO:

CGEQO-ARZ

Clue: N = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twenty-One:Thirty-Six.

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COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS



1. Endowment Fund, MC



2. Student Scout Team, MC

1. Reverend and Mrs. William "Bill" P. Smith, III, of Tupelo, Mississippi donated \$100,000 to establish The William P. and Mary Ellis Smith Scholarship Fund at Mississippi College. The endowment fund will provide financial assistance to high school graduates selected from the Northeast Mississippi counties of Pontotoc, Lee, Itawamba, Monroe, and Chickasaw. Award(s) will be made by Mississippi College based on financial need and scholarship recipient(s) must maintain a GPA of 2.0 in their primary area of study.

2. Mississippi College is proud to announce that seven students from the Mississippi College student body have been selected to join the Mississippi College Scout Team (the University Recruitment Team). Pictured

(left to right) are: Front — Alex Vance, Grenada; Heather Lewis, Meridian; Grace Eckford, Madison; David Parker, Meridian. Back — Ann-Carter Bloomfield, Vancleave; Christian Jones, Pickwick Dam, Tenn.; and Amy Scarborough, Arlington, Tex.

3. The William Carey University Speech and Debate Team placed first at the Bicker Debates held at the University of Louisiana at Monroe recently. The team finished first overall, first in individual events and fourth in debate sweepstakes. Louisiana Tech University and Mississippi College were among the competitors. The Carey team is preparing for the Christian College Nationals and Pi Kappa Delta Forensics Nationals to be held this spring. Shown are participants (back left to right) Justin Gunter, John Wold, Phillip Londeree, Jonathan Allen, Trent Smith, Michael Ruffin, Logan Johnson, (front left to right) Marilyn Marshall, Gwendolyn Kinnebrew, Maggie Farrell, Japheth Dupuis, Chatinoda Tinago, and Chiwoneso Tinago.

4. Fletcher in Green, a painting by Mississippi College graduate student Paul R. Fayard, won a superior achievement award in painting in the 2007 Mississippi Collegiate Art Competition at the Meridian Museum of Art. Judge Susan Maakestad announced Fayard's award and other award winners at the opening reception at the Museum on Feb. 10. "Fear of Commitment," a mixed media work by University of Mississippi student Chris Brady, was chosen as the Best of Show.

5. Mississippi College freshman Josh McCormick of Oxford, won the

International Public Debate Association (IPDA) Mississippi Novice Championship held in February at the Louisiana Independent Forensic Association (LIFA) Tri-State Championships held on the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. For good measure, McCormick also won the entire championship, besting the champions from Louisiana and Arkansas.



McCormick



3. WCU Speech and Debate Team

STATE CHANGES

1. Lane Varner has been called as pastor to Lakeshore Church, Jackson. He previously pastored New Hope Church, Magee.

2. Memorial Church, Perry County, has called Bo Baker as minister of youth. Baker is currently a student at William Carey University majoring in biblical studies. He comes from Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg.



3. Williamson, King, and wife Joanna

3. Joseph Michael King has been called as minister of students of Immanuel Church, Hattiesburg. Joseph is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. He is shown with senior pastor David Williamson (left) and his wife Joanna Miley King.



Russell

4. Jonathan Russell has been called as pastor of Raymond Road Church, Jackson. Russell has been involved in church ministry since 1993, and is currently pursuing a PhD at New Orleans Seminary. He is married to Mandy Russell and has two children, Jake and Cameron.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Show Me Proof

John 6:30-31, 35-36, 41-47, 66-69

By Gloria Lofton

Our lesson this week is: Show Me Proof. Often times we want to be shown proof of something before we can accept it as truth. This is the way the Jews felt about Jesus, even after seeing the miracles performed. The Jews ask Jesus what sign He would give them to prove He was the Son of God, saying their forefathers had been given bread from heaven while they were in the desert. In verses 30-31, to believe Him they must have something akin to this in contrast to the miracle of feeding the 5,000.

In answer to this, Jesus said, "I am the bread of life: He that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst. But I say unto you,

that ye also have seen me and believe not." (verses 35-36, KJV). Jesus now finally identified Himself as the Bread of Life. Not only does He have life in Himself, but He is able to impart it to others. But this Bread is not something external, something apart from Himself. For those who come to Him will never hunger, and those who believe on Him will never thirst.

John 6:41-42 tells us, "The Jews then murmured at Him, because He said, I am the Bread which came down from heaven. And they said, is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph whose Father and Mother we know? How is it then that He saith, I came down from Heaven?" The Jews were so blinded by the humanity of



Lofton

Jesus, they could not see beyond what they knew. They knew too much about Him, including His supposed parentage, to accept the conclusion that He came down from heaven.

In verses 43-47, Jesus told the Jews not to murmur themselves, because no one could come to the Father unless the Father draws him. The Father draws him and Jesus will raise him up. This drawing is an inclination of the heart induced by God. Drawing comes by teaching rather than through some mystical process.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life" (verse 47, KJV). In this verse, Jesus is emphasizing again the importance of believing on Him for everlasting life.

Verse 66, "From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him." (KJV) After Jesus' disclosure that

He was the Bread of Life many of the disciples decided not to follow Him any longer. They could not accept what Jesus had proclaimed. This led to the question of Jesus to the Twelve as to their intentions. "Then said Jesus unto the Twelve, will ye also go away?" (verse 67). Peter, as the rock, stood his ground. He answered, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that Thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." (verses 68-69, KJV).

Note the contrast between the conclusion of the Twelve about Jesus words and the conclusion of the disciples who went away. The twelve accepted Jesus' words as the words of eternal life. The ones who left perceived Jesus' words as a hard saying they could not accept.

Notice the order of Peter's words in verse 69. He stated, "We believe and are sure." In Christian faith, believing comes before knowing; one believes and then one knows or understands.

Too many people want to know for sure and think once they know, then they will believe. This is worldly thinking. It is the reverse of how Christian experience works. Notice both verbs in "we believe and are sure" are perfect tenses. The first implies we have come to a place of faith and continue there; the second implies that we have recognized the truth and continue to hold it.

Accepting Jesus as God's Son is an act of faith, not a conclusion based on demonstrable proof. Have you accepted Jesus' words as being the words of eternal life? Have you chosen by faith to stay with Jesus? If you haven't and feel you need proof before you accept Him, please let me say you are missing the point. You must take that first step toward faith and then let Jesus take over from there. You will be given the Holy Spirit who will guide you into all truth. Don't wait for proof. Accept Him today.

Lofton is a member of Willow Grove Church, Collins.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

What is Worth Celebrating

Esther 8:1-10:3

By Tim Alexander

I was reading from Lamentations 3:22-23 (NIV) the other day. "Because of the LORD'S great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." The Lord was faithful to Esther, Mordecai and all of the Jews. We are thankful that He was faithful then and He is faithful to us now. He never changes; He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. That is hard for us to understand because we live in a fluid world. We are always in some state of change. This lesson will remind us it is great to remember the past, celebrate today and have a bright hope for tomorrow.

1. Deliverance through Legal Means (Esther 8:3, 6-8, 11)

A little background information is needed before we begin this lesson. Haman, as we know, was executed; the king gave Haman's estate to Queen Esther. The king gave Haman's leadership position to Mordecai. Also, Esther was hopeful that the king would revoke his original decree to kill the Jews. Unfortunately, the king would not revoke his earlier decree, but he did allow the Jews the right and opportunity to defend themselves. This act alone spared the Jews. Queen Esther's courage, tactfulness and influence saved many lives. Would we have done the same if we were in her shoes?



Alexander

2. Deliverance Through Victory (Esther 9:1-2)

The day of attack had finally arrived. The Jews were prepared for the anticipated battle. It is easier to fight a battle if you know who the enemy is and you know when the enemy is coming to fight you.

The element of surprise is gone. You can then draw up your battle (action) plans to attack and implement it. The Jews had a weapon unlike their enemy. Esther 8:17 says "the fear of the Jews fell upon them." The Lord sent into the heart and mind of the Gentiles a fear of fighting the Jews. He placed fear in the Jewish opposition's minds. The Lord had won this mind game.

3. Deliverance Celebrated

Mordecai had seen many struggles in his lifetime. He knew that this victory was God's miraculous gift to himself and the Jews. He also knew that this was a "mile marker;" this event needed to be celebrated and com-

memorated by all Jews throughout the kingdom now and for future generations. Mordecai instructed the Jews to annually celebrate this great victory on the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar. The new Jewish holiday, which had its roots in this great victory, was called Purim. The festival derived its name from the word "lot" (pur), which Haman planned to cast in order to decide when to carry out his evil plan to exterminate the Jews. In later years, the book of Esther was read in the synagogue annually on this day. The Jewish month of Adar is our March. When the calendar reads March 14 Jews gather in the synagogue to hear the book of Esther read to remember her courage and God's faithfulness for saving Israel from death and destruction.

Christians should rejoice for our Jewish friends' heritage. Every spiritual blessing we experience came from the Jews. The Jews blessed the world with the knowledge of the one, only and true living God; the Holy Scriptures and Jesus, our Savior.

The very first believers were Jewish believers, and the first missionaries were Jewish, also. Jesus was a Jew who sacrificed his life on a Jewish holy day, the Passover. He also rose again from the dead on another Jewish day, the Feast of the First Fruits. Finally the Holy Spirit arrived from Heaven at Pentecost, a Jewish holiday. We are thankful for the Jewish history. God used the Jews when he provided the way for us to know Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, I think about Proverbs 31 when I think of Queen Esther. Many noble qualities are mentioned in this chapter. Queen Esther displayed many characteristics found in chapter 31. She was known for her bravery; being courageous and for her tactfulness. She was also known for her beauty. Proverbs 31:30 reminds us that "Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." May we, like Esther, fear the Lord and be obedient to Him!

Alexander is Minister of Education, Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

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The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.



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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

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ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

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Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Ordination, Pleasant Grove Church, Brookhaven



4. RAs Receive Bibles, Evergreen Church, Louisville



5. Ordination, First Church, Lucedale

1. **Pleasant Grove Church, Brookhaven**, ordained Cody Warren to the ministry Jan. 21. Warren is serving as pastor at Spring Hill Church, Hazlehurst. Shown are pastor Kent Cochran and Warren.

2. Patsy Eaks made a cross cake for a celebration at **First Church, Ovett**. Nate Blackledge, pastor.

3. **Victory Church, Brookhaven**, ordained David Wallace, Kenneth "Dooley"

Thornhill, and Landon Britt as deacons. Shown are pastor Joel Brister, Wallace, Thornhill, and Britt.

4. The RAs of **Evergreen Church, Louisville**, received Bibles embossed with the RA logo. Shown are Tyler McCool and Samuel Cole, who also earned their third virtue bars as well as their International Mission Study patches.

5. **First Church, Lucedale**, ordained Brad McKissack

and Jason Scott to the Gospel ministry Dec. 10. Shown are Scott, former pastor Bud Parker, and McKissack.

6. **George/Green Association** held their 29th annual men's banquet Jan. 23 at **First Church, Leakesville**, with 203 men present. Endel Lee, speaker. Shown are AMD Jimmy Holcomb, Lee, and pastor Philip Price.

7. **Fairfield Church, Jones Association**, exceeded their Lottie Moon Mission Offering goal of \$2500 by collecting \$8000 in a walk-down offering for foreign missions. Kevin Ivy, pastor.



6. Men's Banquet, First Church, Leakesville



2. Cross Cake, First Church, Ovett



3. Deacon Ordination, Victory Church, Brookhaven



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The apostle Paul expressed confidence in his Lord when he declared, "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). This well-known verse highlights the focus of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation's Scholarship Ministry.

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